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# Recensement Census



Report No. 18

National Census Test

Population Group

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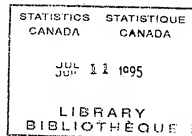


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## **Report No. 18**

**National Census Test**

**Population Group**

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**August 1994**



## Highlights

### General Reaction

- There was little negative respondent reaction or backlash to the population group question. Very few respondents found the population group question difficult and there were few invalid responses.
- At the national level, the non-response rate for the population group question compared favourably with other socio-cultural questions in the National Census Test both before (5.9%) and after follow-up (1.1%).

### Comparison with 1991 Census

- In the 1993 National Census Test, 8.4% of the total population were identified as visible minorities from the population group question. In the 1991 Census, 9.5% of the total population were identified as visible minorities using the derived method based on ethnic origin and other variables.
- The main factor which contributed to the decline in visible minorities was the decrease in immigrants enumerated in the National Census Test, especially among the Asian-born. The proportion of immigrants in 1993 was 1.5 percentage points lower than in the 1991 Census.
- Estimates for most groups from the population group question were comparable to those derived from the ethnic origin question in the 1991 Census.
- Counts for the Arab/West Asian, South Asian and Chinese groups showed greatest decline between 1991 and 1993. The decrease for Arabs/West Asians is related to reporting patterns; many stated White as their population group. Under-enumeration of immigrants was the main cause of the drop in the estimates of South Asians and Chinese.

### Comparison with Ethnic Origin (Question 16)

- A similar proportion of visible minorities were identified using population group and ethnic origin questions in the National Census Test.
- There was almost 90% consistency in reporting among visible minorities, that is persons reported similar population and ethnic groups. Consistency varied among the groups from a high of 99% among Chinese and Japanese to a low of 62% among Latin Americans.

- Although 488,000 persons reported Black in the population group question, only 387,000 persons were identified as Black from ethnic origin. While most persons in the Black population group provided origins such as Haitian or Jamaican, about 30% reported Canadian, English or African origins or did not respond to the ethnic origin question.
- For Latin Americans, the estimate based on population group was about 25% higher than the count derived from ethnic origin. This is due to reporting patterns and employment equity definitions. Many Latin Americans reported Spanish as their ethnic origin. In addition, some ethnic groups such as Chileans are not included in the employment equity derivation of visible minorities although they reported Latin American for the population group question.
- For Arabs and West Asians, the population group count was approximately one-third lower than the ethnic origin estimate. This is because many persons who gave Lebanese or Arab ethnic ancestry said they were White in the population group question.

#### **Canadian Responses**

- Almost one-third of the White population declared Canadian as their ethnicity and these were mainly single responses (63%). About 4% of visible minorities reported Canadian as their ethnic origin with four-fifths providing multiple Canadian responses.
- Although few visible minorities provided Canadian as their ethnic origin, the Black group had the greatest tendency to report Canadian ancestry. About 40% of Canadian responses among visible minorities were found in the Black group.

#### **Aboriginal Responses**

- Over half the Aboriginal population did not follow the skip as directed in Question 17. Furthermore, over one-half of those who responded to the population group question checked the White mark-in entry while one-fourth wrote in an Aboriginal response.

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Race is a socially constructed concept and there is no consensus on gathering of data on visible minorities in Canada. Since 1986 when the Employment Equity Act was passed, employment equity programs have relied on the Census of Population to provide data on members of visible minorities. These data have been derived from ethnic origin as well as other variables because there is no direct question to identify visible minorities in the census.

The 1986 and 1991 Census contained mark-in entries for two visible minority subgroups, Blacks and Chinese. Data for other subgroups were obtained from write-ins provided by respondents.

Although the presence of the Black mark-in entry did not pose problems in the 1986 Census, it did cause negative reaction during the 1991 Census. Much of this centered on the idea that Black is not an ethnic group and therefore should not be included as a response entry in the ethnic origin question. Still others reacted on principle to the gathering of data on Blacks.

Focus groups were conducted in March and April 1993 to evaluate both the acceptability of a race question and the most appropriate response categories to identify visible minorities. These focus groups were comprised of members of visible minorities and non-visible minorities. They confirmed that there is no consensus on the inclusion of a question to identify members of visible minorities in the census nor on which mark-in entries should be listed for race/colour. Many persons expressed concern about why the information was wanted and how it would be used. Confidentiality was the strongest concern of many persons. Some participants also expressed reservations about using social programmes as an explanation for asking questions.

Although most persons in the focus groups were not opposed to a race/colour question, they preferred broad response categories (White, Asian, Black) because these correspond to usual perceptions of race. Black participants in the focus group held in Toronto were most vocal in expressing their concern over a race question. Black participants also reacted to the presence of several mark-in response categories to identify Asians when there was only one entry for Blacks. Some persons found the employment equity groups confusing because it was not clear what was being asked: nationality, origin or other criteria. On the other hand, some persons preferred the employment equity groups. This was particularly evident among groups who were not listed in the broad categories: Latin Americans, and Arabs/West Asians. A number of participants, however, had difficulty fitting themselves into both the employment equity groups and the broad-based groups. These

persons, often of mixed parentage, expressed the need for a mixed category.

Although testing of a race/colour question had been conducted prior to the 1991 Census, no race question was included in this census. Furthermore, this testing had used broad racial/colour groupings as opposed to the employment equity groupings. One of the major findings of the focus groups was that respondents rejected terms such as "colour" and "race" as offensive. All questions tested prior to 1991 had been formulated using these words.

## 1.2 Objective

The objective of the population group question was to test a direct question using employment equity designated groups and to assess the results in meeting legislative and program data needs for visible minorities.

### Quantitative analysis

The major focus of the report is on analysis of the results. This includes non-response and invalid responses, single and multiple responses, comparison of counts with the 1991 Census derived visible minority counts and consistency of responses with Question 16 (ethnic origin) and Question 17 (Aboriginal persons). Special variables were created for the employment equity subgroups based on ethnic origin responses in order to compare results using direct and derived approaches.

### Qualitative analysis

Although no major problems were encountered when testing race/colour questions in previous National Census Tests, focus groups did indicate that many respondents had reservations about providing racial information on the census. Given the sensitivity of race/employment equity, comments and objections provided by respondents as well as comments from debriefing with interviewers and Census Help Line operators are extremely important in assessing the results of the population group question.

Review of a sample of questionnaires in both the Labour Force Survey and the Special Population samples was also conducted to assess responses and gather comments on the question. In addition, about 350 questionnaires containing specific problem areas such as inconsistencies in responses between population group and ethnic origin were reviewed. About 900 questionnaires from all regions of Canada were examined.

## Special Population Samples

These consisted of an augmented non-representative sample of groups in large urban areas and Métis communities. The special populations were Blacks in Montreal, Toronto and Halifax, Asians in Toronto and Vancouver and Montreal, and Latin Americans in Montreal. Aboriginal persons were selected in Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton.

The non-representative nature of the Special Population Samples was not conducive to quantitative analysis. As a result, focus is on qualitative analysis and non-response.

### **2.0 Response Patterns**

#### **2.1 Non-response and Invalid Responses**

##### **2.1.1 Non-response**

The non-response rate for the population group question before follow-up (Edit Failure Study) was 5.9% for Canada. Non-response was highest in Prince Edward Island (9.0%). Other provinces varied from 4.6% in Newfoundland to 6.6% in Alberta.

After follow-up, the non-response rate was 1.1% for Canada. The eastern provinces, Quebec and British Columbia had less than 1% non-response rates. Non-response in the Prairie provinces and Ontario varied from 1.3% (Ontario) to 2.8% (Manitoba).

The non-response rate for the population group question compared favourably with other socio-cultural questions both before and after follow-up.

Non-response rates in the Special Population Samples were also low varying from .4% in the Latin American sample to 1.9% among Asians. A review of questionnaires indicated that language difficulties may have accounted for some of the non-responses among the Special Population Samples.

Non-response rates are not available from the 1991 Census because there was no population group question. Previous census testing yielded non-response rates for race of 4% in the 1989 National Census Test and 4.7% in the 1988 National Census Test.

##### **2.1.2 Aboriginal Persons**

A problem did occur, however, with too many persons answering the population group question. Question 17 which preceded the population group question was meant to enumerate Aboriginal persons. In order to avoid having an additional count for Aboriginal persons, respondents who answered positively to

Question 17 were to skip the population group question. However, the skip was not followed by over half the Aboriginal population.

### 2.1.3 Invalid Responses

There were very few invalid or negative responses to the population group question. There were 349 write-in (unweighted) responses to this question which represented about 1% of all responses. European and Aboriginal responses accounted for about two-thirds of the write-in responses. Only a small number of write-ins could not be resolved in autocoding because of their ambiguity. These usually reflected multiple racial background or regional differences in naming convention.

### 2.2 Single and Multiple Responses

Although focus groups had demonstrated the importance of being able to provide multiple responses to race, there were very few multiple responses to the population group question: 98% of respondents gave a single response and 1% a multiple response. Among persons identified as visible minorities, 93% gave a single response and 7% a multiple response. Less than 1% of White respondents provided a multiple response to the population group question.

The majority of multiple responses were persons who checked a visible minority response in combination with White. These accounted for three-quarters of multiple responses while persons who reported more than one visible minority group represented one-quarter of multiple responses. About 39,000 persons reported a multiple visible minority affiliation in the 1993 National Census Test, quite similar to the number identified in the 1991 Census when ethnic origin was used to identify visible minorities.

Within the subgroups comprising the visible minority population, Arabs/West Asians had the highest proportion of multiple responses with one-quarter reporting multiple responses. Most of these were persons who checked both White and Arab/West Asian mark-ins.

### 3.0 Comparison of Counts

#### 3.1 1993 National Census Test and 1991 Census<sup>1</sup>

The total number of persons identified as visible minorities in Question 18 was 2,303,000 which represented 8.4% of the total population. This was composed of persons who provided single and multiple responses. Persons who provided single visible minority responses comprised 7.8% of the total population, while those who said they were visible minority and white represented 0.4%. In

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<sup>1</sup> Data in this section have been adjusted for non-response and invalid response unless otherwise stated.

addition, 0.2% of the total population reported more than one visible minority group.

In 1991, there was no comparable question in the census. Visible minority estimates were derived by the Employment Equity Interdepartmental Working Group using four questions: ethnic origin, mother tongue, place of birth and religion.

Using the employment equity derived approach, 2,521,000 persons, or 9.5% of the total population were identified as visible minorities in 1991. Overall, the estimate from the 1993 National Census Test was 8.7% lower than the 1991 derived visible minority count based on ethnic origin and other variables.

In the National Census Test, the proportion of visible minorities in the total population varied by region from 1.5% in the Atlantic Provinces to 12.7% in British Columbia.<sup>2</sup> Visible minorities represented 5.2% of the population in Quebec, 11.1% in Ontario and 7.3% in the Prairie Region. These trends were similar to those of the 1991 Census when the percentage of visible minorities was lowest in the Atlantic Region (2.0%) and highest in British Columbia (14.5%). The two provinces with the largest number of recent immigrants, Ontario and British Columbia, showed the greatest decrease between 1991 and 1993. In Ontario, there were 11.1% visible minorities in the 1993 National Census Test in comparison to 13.1% in the 1991 Census; in British Columbia, 12.7% as opposed to 14.5%.

Examination of the coefficient of variation for the population group question demonstrated that the visible minority estimates from the 1993 National Census Test were slightly below the 1991 derived counts for visible minorities for Canada at the 95% confidence level. This was mainly due to the decrease in the counts for visible minorities in Ontario. Analysis of the coefficient of variation for visible minorities at the sub-national geographic level shows that only Ontario was below the range of estimates at the 95% confidence level. All other geographic areas fell within the range of estimates.

Estimates for the employment equity subgroups in the 1993 National Census Test were all within the 95% confidence level when compared with 1991 derived visible minority counts except for South East Asians.

Multiple responses were accepted for Question 18. Approximately 116,000 persons identified as white and visible minorities. About 40,000 persons reported more than one visible minority subgroup in the National Census Test compared to 48,000 in the 1991 Census. For

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<sup>2</sup> Provincial and regional data have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses.

the National Census Test, these persons were counted in each of the relevant visible minority groups.

Data from the 1993 National Census Test were not compared with the 1988 and 1989 National Census Tests because counts for visible minorities were considerably lower at that time. Visible minorities increased substantially in the 1991 Census largely as a result of higher immigration levels from Asian countries in recent years.

The 1988 race/colour question, however, did produce estimates of the visible minority population (5.8%) that were comparable, although slightly lower, than the 1986 employment equity derived counts (6.3%).

### White

About 24.5 million persons were identified as White in Question 18 of which 99% were single responses. White single responses represented 90.1% of the total population of Canada.

### Chinese

The Chinese was the largest of the visible minority subgroups with 546,000 persons or 2% of the total population in the National Census Test. In comparison, there were 626,000 Chinese (2.3% of the population) in the 1991 Census. The decrease of 12.7% is mainly attributable to the drop in Asian places of birth in the National Census Test. Reporting patterns in the 1993 National Census Test may also have affected the Chinese subgroup with more respondents checking the South East Asian subgroup when given a choice of mark-in entries.

### South Asian

South Asian was the second largest group in 1991 (505,000) composing 1.9% of the total population. In 1993, 433,000 South Asians formed 1.6% of Canada's population). This represented a 14.3% drop in South Asians which was mainly due to the decline in respondents with Asian places of birth in the National Census Test.

### Black

The Black subgroup was the second largest group in Question 18 with 494,000 persons which represented 1.8% of the total population. This was just slightly lower than the number (503,000) and proportion (1.9%) that were identified as Black from the 1991 Census ethnic origin derived variable.

### Arab/West Asian

There were 233,000 persons who stated they were Arabs and West Asians in the National Census Test, a decrease of 19.4% from the employment equity derived count of 289,000 in 1991. The difference is largely a result of reporting patterns and derivation of employment equity groups. Many persons who provided Arab/West Asian origins (47,000 single ethnic origins) reported White for population group.

The Chinese, South Asian and Arab/West Asian subgroups accounted for 95% of the drop in counts between the 1991 Census and the 1993 National Census Test.

### South East Asian

The South East Asians subgroup increased by over 50% between 1991 and 1993 from 138,000 to 219,000. This rise can be attributed to reporting patterns as well as sampling variance. Some South East Asians who had reported Chinese in the 1991 Census may have checked South East Asian when both mark-in entries are listed as in Question 18.

Indonesians and Pacific Islanders were included in the South East Asian subgroup because of small counts in the National Census Test and the inclusion of Indonesians with South East Asians by employment equity. Although Other Pacific Islanders remains a separate group for employment equity, the counts from the National Census Test are too small to present as a separate category.

The estimates for South East Asians based on the 1993 National Census Test were slightly above the 95% confidence range for counts from the 1991 Census.

### Filipino

The number of Filipinos enumerated in the 1993 National Census Test (156,000) was very similar to the 1991 Census derived count (169,000). Filipinos comprised 0.6% of the total population in both 1991 and 1993.

### Latin American

The number of persons who identified in Question 18 as Latin American (156,000) was about 21,000 higher than the 1991 derived employment equity count. The increase of 15.9% is mostly due to reporting patterns and employment equity derivation methods. Many persons who reported Latin American for population group wrote in Spanish as their ethnic origin. Under the employment equity derivation method for visible minorities, these persons are not included as visible minorities.

### Japanese/Korean

Japanese and Koreans were combined into one group because of small counts among Koreans. About the same number of persons were enumerated in both the last census and the recent test: 105,000 in 1993 and 109,000 in 1991.

### 3.2 Comparison with Ethnic Origin<sup>3</sup>

Question 18 provides the first opportunity to cross-tabulate visible minority data using the employment equity groups with ethnic origin.

Generally, it was expected that persons stating White in Question 18 would write in British, French or European origins in Question 16. Visible minorities were expected to report non-European ancestry. Particular attention was given to Canadian ethnic origin responses and their impact on visible minority counts. Overall, reporting patterns for visible minorities and non-visible minorities were consistent with expected results.

#### White

The majority of White respondents provided British, French, European or Canadian ethnic origins. Canadian ethnic ancestry was the most frequently reported origin among Whites: 20% of Whites reported Canadian single ancestry. Almost 100,000 non-Europeans also said they were White of whom about 60% reported White as their only population group. Arabs, West Asians and South Asians were most likely to say they were White.

#### Chinese

Reporting patterns of persons who checked the Chinese mark-in entry in Question 18 were very consistent with those who wrote-in Chinese in Question 16. Chinese single ethnic origin was reported by 89.1% of the Chinese population group. British and other (1.7%) and other multiples (5.4%) were the other most frequent ethnic origins stated.

#### South Asian

About 45% of this population group reported East Indian and 29.6% declared other South Asian origins. Other multiple origins (11.6%), other British (4.5%), Canadian (1.7%) were also frequent ethnic responses. An additional 4.8% of South Asian population group did not report an ethnic origin.

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<sup>3</sup> Data in this section have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses.



## Black

The Black group was more diversified in reporting ethnic origins than most visible minority groups. Caribbean origins were the most frequent origins (34.4%) reported by the 488,000 Black population group respondents followed by African (19.9%), and other multiples (10.6%). It is important to note that Black was provided as a write-in to ethnic ancestry by only 8.1% of persons who checked off the Black mark-in entry in Question 18. Other frequently reported origins were: East Indian (7.3%), Canadian and other (5.0%), British and other (2.6%), European (2.1%), French and other (2.2%) and Canadian (1.8%). In addition, 3.9% of Blacks did not respond to the ethnic origin question.

## Arab/West Asian

Among the persons who stated they were Arab/West Asian in Question 18, 41.3% gave Arab ethnic origins in Question 16 and 25.2% declared West Asian ancestry. Other multiple origins were reported by 23.9% and 4.4% gave East Indian ethnic responses.

## Filipino

Persons who said they were Filipino in Question 18 were consistent in their ethnic origins: 78.6% gave the same ethnic origin, 6.4% provided multiple Canadian and other, 4.6%, French and other and 8.8% declared other multiple origins.

## South East Asians

Persons who reported South East Asian population group in Question 18 reported a diversity of ethnic origins in Question 16. Two-thirds of the South East Asians gave Indo-Chinese origins such as Vietnamese, Cambodian. An additional 7.1% stated French, 5.7% Chinese, 4.2% other Asian origins and 5.1% other multiples. Also, 5.1% of this population group did not respond to the ethnic origin question.

## Latin American

About one-third of persons who said they were Latin American in Question 18 reported Latin, Central and South American ethnic origins and one-third gave Southern European origins (Spanish) origins. Other multiple responses were given by one-fourth of respondents.

## Japanese

Two-thirds of the Japanese population group provided the same ethnic origin and one-fifth gave a combination of Canadian and other origins. British and other were declared by 7.1% and other multiple responses by 6.4% of this population group.

### Total Visible Minorities

Cross-tabulation of the total visible minority group with ethnic origins confirms that most of these respondents provided non-European origins. About 128,000 respondents (5%) gave British, French, European or Canadian single ethnic origins. The largest group (55,000) were found among Latin Americans who provided Southern European ethnicity. About 19,000 visible minorities reported other British origins, 17,000 declared Canadian and 15,000 gave French origins. In addition, multiple responses with British, French or Canadian were reported by many visible minorities of which Canadian and other (65,000), British and other (42,000) and French and other (28,000) were the most frequent combinations.

### 3.3 Canadian Ethnic Origin

Cross-tabulation of Question 18 with Canadian ethnic origins shows that few visible minorities reported Canadian as their ethnic origin and those that did tended to provide multiple as opposed to single Canadian origins.

About 7.9 million respondents representing 29% of the total population reported Canadian ethnic origins. Almost one-third of the White population (7.8 million) declared Canadian as their ethnicity and these were mainly single responses (63%). About 4% of visible minorities (88,000) reported Canadian as their ethnic origin with four-fifths providing multiple Canadian responses. Blacks had the greatest tendency to report Canadian single or multiple responses: 40% of Canadian responses among visible minorities were found in this group.

### 3.4 Comparison with Derived Visible Minority (Ethnic Origin)<sup>4</sup>

One of the issues for the 1996 Census relates to the effectiveness of an open-ended ethnic origin question to derive visible minority counts if there were no population group question. Because of the complexity of the visible minority derivation method from the 1991 Census, it was not possible to replicate the 1991 visible minority variable for the 1993 National Census Test by using ethnic origin, mother tongue, place of birth and religion. It was possible to simulate the 1991 visible minority variable with the ethnic origin variable which accounts for 94% of the visible minority estimate for 1991. This was done by grouping ethnic origins into the employment equity subgroups.

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<sup>4</sup>Data in this section have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses.

Although place of birth and mother tongue contributed to only 6% of the visible minority count, this varies from group to group. For example, the ethnic origin component represents half the count for Latin Americans, 89% of the counts for Blacks but 99% of the Chinese group.

The number of persons identified as visible minorities based on the derived ethnic origin approach was 2,225,000 or 8.2% of the total population. This was comparable to the direct method in the population group question where 2,276,000 visible minorities (8.3%) were enumerated (unadjusted data). The difference of 0.1 percentage point can be attributed to the higher non-response for the ethnic origin question and the non-adjustment of data.

Overall, there was about 90% consistency in reporting among visible minorities. Of the persons who reported that they were visible minorities in Question 18, 88.2% provided ethnic origins considered to be visible minority origins in Question 16; 11.2% gave other origins.

However, some groups were more diverse than others in their responses and this resulted in reporting discrepancies. For some this meant higher counts for ethnicity and for others it was the population group that was greater. Although a similar proportion were identified as visible minorities using the two methods, these were not necessarily the same persons. The following table summarizes the reporting patterns between population group and ethnic origin responses.

	<b>Ethnic Origins consistent with Population Group</b>	<b>Population Group consistent with Ethnic Origins</b>
Chinese	99.2%	91.4%
South Asian	87.2%	80.8%
Black	71.7%	90.5%
Arab/West Asian	93.7%	70.9%
Filipino	94.2%	94.6%
South East Asian	78.0%	90.9%
Latin American	61.9%	84.6%
Japanese	99.3%	92.3%
Total Visible Minorities	88.8%	90.8%

Subgroups which gave the most consistent responses when population group responses were cross-tabulated with visible minority derived on ethnic origin were the Chinese, Filipino and Japanese. Results from Question 18 for Blacks, Latin Americans and South East Asians were higher than from Question 16.

Three types of inconsistencies were found by comparing derived visible minorities from Question 16 and results from Question 18. Some groups, Blacks in particular, report ethnic origins which cannot be identified as visible minorities. Although most Blacks reported origins included in employment equity derived Black some reported origins such as Canadian, English or other African. The open-ended ethnic origin format and deletion of the Black mark-in resulted in Black respondents providing more diverse ethnic origins which lead to greater difficulty in identifying members of this group.

A second type of response pattern was found with Latin Americans where the count for ethnic origin was lower than the population group count due to reporting patterns and also employment equity derivation methods. Many persons who checked Latin American for the population group question reported Spanish ethnic origins. These persons are not included in the employment equity derivation of visible minorities if they were born in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. In other words, Question 18 includes persons who said they were Latin American but are not necessarily considered visible minorities for employment equity.

The comparison between derived ethnic origin and population group shows a third type of response pattern. For the Arab and West Asian subgroup, the ethnic origin count was much higher than the population group estimates because many Arabs and West Asians reported White for Question 18. In other words, these persons are included in the employment equity derivation of visible minorities although they considered themselves White in Question 18.

The following provides more information on the cross-tabulation of Question 18 subgroups with derived subgroups based on Question 16.

#### Chinese

About 580,000 persons were identified as Chinese from ethnic origin whereas 540,000 checked the mark-in entry in Question 18. Almost all persons who checked the Chinese mark-in entry reported Chinese ethnic origin; 91% of those reporting a Chinese ethnic origin gave the same response in Question 18.

This group provided consistent responses and it should be possible to identify with an open-ended ethnic origin question provided there is adequate coverage of recent immigrants.

### South Asian

A total of 462,000 South Asians were counted based on ethnicity and 428,000 from the direct method in Question 18. About 88% of persons counted as South Asians in Question 18 declared the same ethnic origin. Several persons (21,000) did not respond to Question 16 although they checked the South Asian mark-in entry. In addition, review of questionnaires demonstrated that some South Asian parents reported Canadian ethnic origins for their children.

Four-fifths of persons identified as South Asians in Question 16 checked the South Asian mark-in entry in Question 18. About 20% of persons who provided South Asian ethnic origins did not report the same population group. Review of these questionnaires revealed several types of situations. Some respondents who provided South Asian ethnic origins reported Black, Arab or White as their population group.

Although there were some inconsistent reporting patterns among South Asians, it should be possible to identify this group with an open-ended ethnic origin question. For example, estimates for South Asian ethnic origins were higher than those from the population group question.

### Black

Only 387,000 persons were identified as Black using ethnic origin although 488,000 persons reported Black in Question 18. The equivalent count based on the ethnic origin from the 1991 question which contained a mark-in entry for Blacks was 450,000.

Only 72% of persons who reported Black in Question 18, reported origins which are considered as Black using the employment equity derivation method in Question 16. On the other hand, about 90% of those who reported Black ethnic origins in the National Census Test also reported Black for the population group. Of the 138,000 persons who did not report origins which could be included in the employment equity derived Black group, almost 120,000 gave other origins and the remaining did not respond to the ethnic origin question.

The direct method using Question 18 produces a count for this group which is much higher than the derived approach. Some of the discrepancy could be overcome by better coding of African responses, however, very little can be done about the reporting of Canadian, English, or French origins by visible minorities. In addition, the Black group is more affected by Canadian ethnic origins than other visible minority subgroups. As Canadian responses increase, it may be increasingly difficult to identify Blacks unless there is a population group or race question.

Thus, it would be difficult to identify Blacks with an open-ended ethnic origin question. This type of question would likely result in an under-count of this group for employment equity purposes.

#### Arab/West Asian

About 306,000 persons were included in the subgroup for Arabs and West Asians from ethnic origin but only 231,000 checked off the corresponding box in Question 18. Overall, 93.7% of persons who checked the Arab/West Asian entry provided the equivalent ethnic origin. Very few gave other origins. On the other hand, almost 30% of persons who gave Arab/West Asian origins did not check off the equivalent mark-in entry.

This group can be identified using an open-ended ethnic origin question. However, if a population group question does appear on the 1996 Census, the Interdepartmental Working Group on Employment Equity Data may need to re-consider the question of persons who report White as their population group and Arab/West Asian for ethnic origin.

#### Filipino

About the same number of persons (154,000) reported Filipino as their ancestry or population group. There was about 95% consistency when these questions were cross-tabulated. An open-ended ethnic origin question can be used to enumerate Filipinos.

#### South East Asian

Over 216,000 persons gave South East Asian as their population group in Question 18 whereas 186,000 persons provided these origins in Question 16. Only 78% of South East Asians gave ethnic origins which were consistent with their population group with about 48,000 not reporting similar origins. Most of these gave French or Chinese ancestry or did not respond to Question 16.

On the other hand, 91% of persons who reported South East Asian origins checked off the corresponding population group.

This group is more difficult to identify using an open-ended ethnic origin question because of the diversification of ancestries and high non-response levels.

#### Latin American

A much larger number of persons identified as Latin American in Question 18 than in Question 16. In the population group question, 154,000 persons checked the Latin American entry although only 113,000 provided a similar ethnic origin. This was the population group that showed the greatest inconsistency: only 62% of the population group could be identified using ethnic origin. Almost

60,000 persons gave other ethnic origins. On the other hand, 85% of those who gave a Latin American ethnic origin checked off the same population group.

Part of the difference is related to the derivation method which excludes some Latin American groups such as Chileans who are not considered members of visible minorities. The remaining differences are due to reporting patterns among Latin Americans many of whom provide Spanish as their ancestry.

This group poses particular problems for employment equity. An open-ended ethnic origin question yields estimates that are quite different from the population group question. However, the open-ended approach for an ethnic origin question should not have an impact on this group since most inconsistencies are inherent to the derivation method. This is no different from previous censuses. If a population group question is asked, decisions will be required by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Employment Equity Data about persons who report Latin American population group but provide ethnic origins not included as visible minorities.

#### Japanese

Counts for the Japanese group were very similar using the employment equity approach in Question 16 and the direct approach in Question 18. About 107,000 persons reported Japanese ethnicity in Question 16 and 100,000 stated the same population group. Almost all persons who reported Japanese as their population group gave the same ethnic origin.

This subgroup can be identified using an open-ended ethnic origin question.

#### Korean

It was not possible to evaluate this subgroup based on the National Census Test because counts were too small.

### **4.0 Qualitative Analysis**

#### **4.1 Questionnaire Review**

Approximately 900 questionnaires from the Labour Force Survey and Special Population samples were reviewed by subject matter. These included a random sample of about 550 questionnaires as well as a review of specific questionnaires to examine inconsistent responses with other questions. In addition, questionnaires containing comments in Step 10 which enabled respondents to state questions which they found difficult or objectionable were consulted. Results of Step 10 review are discussed in Section 4.2.

The focus in this section is on the review of a random sample of questionnaires from all regions. Although no major issues emerged from this review, it did help to clarify and confirm response patterns between ethnic origin and population group questions.

Within the Special Populations, the difficulty in getting Asian respondents to complete questionnaires was apparent and seemed to be related to language difficulties. However, consistent responses were provided to Question 18 and Question 16 when questionnaires were completed. The one exception were persons from the Caribbean. The tendency to declare East Indian ethnic origin but West Indian or Trinidadian for the population group question was observed. Some respondents reported Guyanese or Trinidadian for both ethnic origin and population group although responses to other questions indicated these persons were Asian.

Among Blacks in Montreal and Toronto, no apparent problems were noticed. In Halifax, although persons reported Black for Question 18, there was a strong tendency among Blacks to report Canadian usually as a single response to Question 16. The tendency to not respond to ethnic origin or provide other origins such as African or English was also observed in the questionnaire review for this group. The reporting of Métis and Spanish was noted among persons from Central America. The tendency for persons who declared Arab or West Asian ethnicity to check White for the population group question was also noted.

Within the Labour Force Survey component, the majority of respondents in all regions checked the White mark-in entry and made no comments or observations.

#### 4.2 Step 10 Comments and Objections

Step 10 was designed to identify questions which respondents found difficult or objectionable.

There was little negative respondent reaction or backlash to the population group question. Of the 12,000 households in the Labour Force Survey sample of the National Census Test, 14 said they found Question 18 difficult and 87 said they objected to this question.

Within the Labour Force Survey component, about one-fifth of questionnaires containing objections or comments were examined. Some respondents objected to Question 18 on principle. They did not see why race should be asked because everyone should be treated equally. They were unsure about how the information would be used and objected to government spending for cultural groups. A number of persons did not like the response entries and were uncertain about what was being asked. Some persons resented being labelled as White while others said that White and Black were racist terms and should be replaced by Caucasian and Negro. A few respondents



reacted to the labelling of various groups: Arabs and West Asians are White also, and Black has nothing to do with African, Haitian or Jamaican. Some respondents also reacted to examples for the subgroups, e.g. Somali should not be included with Black.

The lack of a response categories for Aboriginal persons and Canadian was also mentioned. Other respondents did not notice that multiple responses were accepted.

Of the 2,800 households in the Special Population Sample, 36 objected to the population group question and 7 found it difficult. One-half of questionnaires with objections or comments were reviewed.

Comments by respondents in the Special Population Sample were similar to those provided by persons in the Labour Force Survey sample. A few persons were offended by the question and disapproved of a race question. Categorizing by race was seen as contributing to a racist society. A number of persons reacted to the response categories and examples. Why one mark-in only for Whites? Why was Somali shown as a separate example when it is in Africa? Why were Chinese, Koreans, Japanese and South East Asians separate groups. Did Latin America include Mexico? Why were Asians not all grouped together when Whites and Blacks were grouped? Why were Armenians included with Arabs?

#### 4.3 Census Help Line

There were 514 queries regarding the content of the 1993 Census test questionnaire of which only 5 related to Question 18.

#### 4.4 Interviewer Debriefings

The most negative reactions to the population group question were heard from interviewers for both the Labour Force Survey and the Special Population samples in the debriefing sessions held in several regions across Canada. A number of White respondents reacted to questions on race and ethnic origin, particularly in the Prairies. As well, Question 18 brought a few refusals from respondents in the Special Population samples, particularly in Toronto and Halifax. Generally, respondents answered even if they were surprised by the question. However, interviewers also mentioned that the note in Question 18 was useful in explaining the purpose of the question.

The placement of Question 18 was seen as a problem by several interviewers. The inclusion of Question 17 between ethnic origin and population group did not appear logical and skips posed problems. The preference was to include the population group question immediately following Question 16 on ethnic origin.

A number of interviewers noted the sensitivity of follow-up for this question. They were uncomfortable reading the response categories, particularly White and Black. In addition, it was noted that White respondents were surprised by the question and the White mark-in entry.

In spite of the instruction on multiple responses, persons of mixed background were not sure how to answer. This had also been observed in the focus groups where many respondents reported the need for a mixed category. Reporting of White by persons who provided Arabs or West Asian ethnic origins was raised. Uncertainty on the part of Latin Americans as to whether they should respond White and/or Latin American was also mentioned. Interviewers in Winnipeg and Edmonton noted the confusion on the part of Caribbean respondents on how to answer this question. There was a tendency to provide an ethnic origin as opposed to checking the appropriate population group. Confusion about the meaning of the response categories was also raised by interviewers. Respondents were unsure about what was being asked: race, ethnicity or nationality.

Scepticism on the part of respondents regarding the note and explanation as to why the question was being asked and employment equity programs was also mentioned.

## **5.0 Other Issues**

### **5.1 Aboriginal Responses**

Cross-tabulations of the population that self-reported as Aboriginal persons in Question 17 with Question 18 indicate that the majority of the Aboriginal population (55%) did not follow the skip as directed in Question 17. Furthermore, over one-half (57%) of those who responded to the population group question checked the White mark-in entry while one-fourth (23%) wrote in an Aboriginal response.

Overall, one-third of Aboriginal persons identified in Question 17 said they were White, 8% said they were visible minority and 13% wrote in an Aboriginal response. Only 45% of Aboriginal persons skipped the population group question.

Although Aboriginal write-ins for Question 18 could be disregarded, it was not possible to eliminate White or other responses because there was no editing of data for the National Census Test. This slightly increased White and other responses. If this question is asked in the 1996 Census, an editing strategy for Aboriginal responses will be required.

## 5.2 Decrease of Immigrants

The decline in visible minorities identified in the 1993 National Census Test compared to estimates obtained from the 1991 Census is the result of under-enumeration of immigrants in 1993. The proportion of immigrants enumerated in the 1993 National Census Test was 14.7% compared to 16.2% in the 1991 Census. This decline of 332,000 immigrants is not consistent with immigration levels and trends since the last census. Several factors are likely responsible for the decline such as the lack of translation facilities and communication strategy for persons speaking non-official languages.

Because the majority of recent immigrants (about 70% based on 1986-1991 data) are visible minorities, a decrease in immigrants has a direct impact on estimates of visible minorities. For the 1996 Census, this issue needs to be addressed by collection, methodology and communication areas.

## 5.3 Public Reaction

Although few problems were encountered with Question 18 in the National Census Test, the census environment may be quite different. A communications strategy developed in conjunction with subject matter, collection and communications will be necessary.

## 5.4 Employment Equity Groups

The population groups listed in Question 18 included one mark-in entry for Whites, eight mark-in entries for Asians, one for Blacks and one for Latin Americans.

The large number of response categories and the fine distinctions for Asian groups may pose a problem if this question is asked in the 1996 Census. This issue was raised by participants in focus groups prior to the National Census Test.

In addition, counts for some groups are very small. Estimates of Koreans and Indonesian/Pacific Islanders were too small to permit specific evaluation of these groups. Furthermore, Indonesian was included within the South East Asian subgroup by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Employment Equity in 1991. A separate mark-in entry for Pacific Islanders is not recommended because few persons provided this origin (5,440 in 1991).

## 5.5 Processing

No special reference coding file was developed for Question 18. The ethnic origin coding file was used with some modifications. However, if the 1996 Census does contain a population group question, a new reference file will be required and resources will be needed for this activity. In addition, a processing strategy will need to be developed and testing will be required.

## 6.0 Summary

Non-response for the population group question was low (5.9% before follow-up and 1.1% after follow-up) and there were few negative or backlash responses. The percentage of the population who were identified as visible minorities in the National Census Test was 8.4% in comparison to 9.5% in the 1991 Census using the derived employment equity method. The 1993 estimate is slightly below the range for the 95% c.v. The factors which contribute to the lower estimate are the decrease of immigrants in the National Census Test as well as sampling variability.

Overall, population group responses were consistent with ethnic origin responses. Whites provided European, British, French and Canadian responses. Visible minorities generally provide ethnic ancestry consistent with the employment equity subgroups.

However, it would be difficult to obtain estimates for some groups, using an open-ended ethnic origin question. The diversity of ethnic origins provided by Blacks makes it difficult to estimate population counts unless a race question is asked or a Black mark-in for ethnic origin is maintained. Counts based on derived ethnic origin write-in responses were about 100,000 less than the Black mark-in entry in 1993 and 62,000 less than the 1991 derived ethnic origin based employment equity estimate.

Canadian origins did not impact to a large extent on the estimates of visible minorities in the 1993 National Census Test. However, the fluidity of ethnic origin responses makes it difficult to predict future impact of Canadian responses on estimates of visible minorities, particularly in a census context where other factors such as the media can influence the ethnic choices of respondents.

# **VISIBLE MINORITY**

**18. Is this person:**

- *Mark or specify more than one, if applicable.*

**Note:**

*This information is collected to support programs which promote equal opportunity for everyone to share in the social, cultural and economic life of Canada.*

01 ☐ White

02 ☐ Chinese

03 ☐ South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Punjabi, Sri Lankan)

04 ☐ Black (e.g., African, Haitian, Jamaican, Somali)

05 ☐ Arab/West Asian (e.g., Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Moroccan)

06 ☐ Filipino

07 ☐ South East Asian (e.g., Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, Vietnamese)

08 ☐ Latin American

09 ☐ Japanese

10 ☐ Korean

11 ☐ Indonesian/Pacific Islander

Other — Specify

12

Table 1: Non-Response Rates for Population Group, 1993 NCT,  
Canada and Provinces

	EFS	LFS
	%	%
Canada	5.9	1.1
Newfoundland	4.6	0.4
Prince Edward Island	9.0	0.6
Nova Scotia	6.5	0.7
New Brunswick	5.1	0.6
Quebec	6.4	0.5
Ontario	6.3	1.3
Manitoba	5.5	2.8
Saskatchewan	4.8	1.9
Alberta	6.6	1.9
British Columbia	4.9	0.9

EFS: Edit Failure Study before follow-up

LFS: Labour Force Survey after follow-up

Table 2: Distribution of Visible Minorities by Subgroup, 1993 NCT and 1991 Census, Canada

	1993 NCT		1991 Census	
	'000	%	'000	%
Total Population	27,294	100.0	26,677	100.0
Visible Minorities	2,303	8.4	2,521	9.5
Blacks	494	1.8	503	1.9
South Asians	433	1.6	505	1.9
Chinese	546	2.0	626	2.3
Japanese/Koreans	105	0.4	109	0.4
South East Asians <sup>1</sup>	219	0.8	138	0.5
Filipinos	156	0.6	169	0.6
Arabs & West Asians	233	0.9	289	1.1
Latin Americans	156	0.6	134	0.5
Multiple Visible Minorities	*	*	48	0.2

<sup>1</sup> Includes Indonesians/Other Pacific Islanders

\* Multiples have been included in the subgroups.

1993 NCT data have been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses

Table 3: Visible Minorities by Subgroup, 1993 NCT and 1991 Census, Canada

(Counts in thousands)				
	1993 NCT Adjusted	1991 Census (NCT universe)	Count Diff.	% Diff.
Total Population	27,294	26,677	617	2.3
Visible Minorities	2,303	2,521	(219)	-8.7
Blacks	494	503	(9)	-1.9
South Asians	433	505	(72)	-14.3
Chinese	546	626	(80)	-12.7
Japanese/Koreans	105	109	(4)	-3.5
South East Asians <sup>1</sup>	219	138	81	58.9
Filipinos	156	169	(13)	-7.8
Arabs & West Asians	233	289	(56)	-19.4
Latin Americans	156	134	21	15.9
Multiple visible minorities	*	48	n.a.	n.a.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Indonesians/Other Pacific Islanders

\* Multiples have been included in the subgroups.

n.a. - not applicable

1993 NCT data have been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses



Table 4: Coefficients of Variation and Range of Estimate at 95% Level of Confidence for Population Group, 1993 NCT, Canada

	1993 NCT '000	% CV	Estimate Range '000
Visible Minorities	2,303	3.9 +/-	180
Blacks	494	8.1 +/-	80
South Asians	433	8.5 +/-	74
Chinese	546	8.1 +/-	88
Japanese / Koreans	105	18.2 +/-	38
South East Asians <sup>1</sup>	219	12.8 +/-	56
Filipinos	156	14.8 +/-	46
Arabs & West Asians	233	11.5 +/-	54
Latin Americans	156	14.8 +/-	46

<sup>1</sup> Includes Indonesians/other Pacific Islanders.

1993 NCT data have been adjusted for on-response and invalid responses

Table 5: Visible Minorities, 1993 NCT and 1991 Census, Canada and Regions

	1993 NCT		1991 Census	
	'000	%	'000	%
Canada	2,276	8.3	2,521	9.5
Atlantic Region	35	1.5	45	2.0
Quebec	355	5.2	382	5.6
Ontario	1,132	11.1	1,297	13.1
Prairie Region	329	7.3	336	7.5
British Columbia	425	12.7	462	14.5

1993 NCT data have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses

1993 NCT excludes Indian reserves and the territories. Estimates from the 1991 Census are based on a comparable universe.

Table 6: Coefficients of Variation and Range of Estimate at 95% Level of Confidence for Visible Minorities, 1993 NCT, Canada and Regions

	1993 NCT <sup>1</sup>	% CV	Estimate Range	
	'000		'000	
CANADA	2,276	3.9	+/-	178
Atlantic Region	35	30.7	+/-	21
Quebec	355	9.7	+/-	69
Ontario	1,132	5.6	+/-	127
Prairie Region	329	10.4	+/-	68
British Columbia	425	9.0	+/-	77

<sup>1</sup> 1993 NCT have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses.

1993 NCT excludes Indian reserves and the territories. Estimates from the 1991 Census are based on a comparable universe.

Table 7: Population Group Showing Single and Multiple Responses, 1993 NCT, Canada

	Total		Single		Multiple	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
White	24,548	100	24,310	99.0	238	1.0
Visible Minorities	2,276	100	2,116	92.9	161	7.1
Blacks	488	100	473	96.8	16	3.2
South Asians	428	100	387	90.4	41	9.6
Chinese	540	100	509	94.3	31	5.7
Japanese / Koreans	104	100	95	91.3	9	8.7
South East Asians <sup>1</sup>	216	100	198	91.4	19	8.6
Filipinos	154	100	136	88.1	18	11.9
Arabs & West Asians	231	100	177	76.4	55	23.6
Latin Americans	154	100	142	91.9	12	8.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes Indonesians/other Pacific Islanders.

1993 NCT data have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses.

Table 8: Population Group by Canadian Ethnic Origins, 1993 NCT, Canada

	Total Population		Visible Minorities		Non - Visible Minorities	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Total Population	27,293	100.0	2,276	100.0	25,017	100.0
Canadian Ethnic Origins	7,925	29.0	88	3.9	7,837	31.3
Single	4,964	18.2	16	0.7	4,948	19.8
Multiple	2,961	10.8	72	3.2	2,889	11.5

1993 NCT data have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses

Table 9: Canadian Ethnic Origins by Population Group, 1993 NCT, Canada

	Total Population		Canadian Ethnic Origins	
	'000	%	'000	%
Total	27,293	100.0	7,925	100.0
Visible Minorities	2,276	8.3	88	1.1
Non - Visible Minorities	25,017	91.7	7,837	98.9

- 1993 NCT data have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses

Table 10: Comparison of Visible Minorities, Population Group (Q. 18) and Ethnic Origin (Q. 16), 1993 NCT, Canada

(Counts in Thousands)

	Population Group (Q. 18)	Ethnic Origin (Q. 16)	Count Diff.	% Diff.
Total Visible Minorities	2,276	2,225	51	2.2
Blacks	488	387	101	20.7
South Asian	428	462	(34)	-7.9
Chinese	540	580	(40)	-7.4
Japanese	100	107	(7)	-7.0
Koreans	--	--	--	--
South East Asians <sup>1</sup>	216	186	30	13.9
Filipinos	154	153	1	0.6
Arabs & West Asians	231	306	(75)	-32.5
Latin Americans	154	113	41	26.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes Indonesians/other Pacific Islanders.

-- Estimates are too small to be releasable.

1993 NCT data have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses.

Table 11: Distribution of Visible Minorities by Subgroup, 1993 NCT, Canada

	Population Group (Q. 18)		Ethnic Origin (Q. 16)	
	'000	%	'000	%
Total Population	27,294	100.0	27,294	100.0
Visible Minorities	2,276	8.3	2,225	8.2
Blacks	488	1.8	387	1.4
South Asian	428	1.6	462	1.7
Chinese	540	2.0	580	2.1
Japanese	100	0.4	107	0.4
Koreans	--	--	--	--
South East Asians <sup>1</sup>	216	0.8	186	0.7
Filipinos	154	0.6	153	0.6
Arabs & West Asians	231	0.8	306	1.1
Latin Americans	154	0.6	113	0.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes Indonesians/other Pacific Islanders

-- Estimates are too small to be releasable.

1993 NCT data have not been adjusted for non-response and invalid responses.



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